

CLAIMS

1. A method (40) for controlling an apparatus having an emergency alert
5 function, comprising:

detecting a condition indicating relocation of said apparatus after a
power interruption to said apparatus (44); and

enabling a predetermined output associated with said emergency alert
function responsive to detecting said condition (46).

2. The method (40) of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to
provide updated information associated with said emergency alert function
responsive to detecting said condition (41).

3. The method (40) of claim 2, wherein said updated information includes
a FIPS location code.

4. The method (40) of claim 2, wherein said updated information includes
a type of emergency event.

5. The method (40) of claim 1, wherein detecting said condition includes
detecting a duration of said power interruption.

6. The method (40) of claim 5, wherein said condition is detected if said
25 duration exceeds a predetermined time period.

7. The method (40) of claim 5, wherein said duration is detected using a
vertical blanking interval of a television signal.

8. The method (40) of claim 5, wherein detecting said condition further
includes detecting signal strength on a previously identified frequency channel
associated with said emergency alert function.

9. The method (40) of claim 1, wherein detecting said condition includes detecting signal strength on a first previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function.

5 10. The method (40) of claim 9, wherein:

said first previously identified frequency channel has previously exhibited higher signal strength relative to a second previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function; and

10 said condition is detected if said second previously identified frequency channel exhibits higher signal strength relative to said first previously identified frequency channel.

11. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

15 tuning means (22) for tuning signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and

processing means (27) for detecting a condition indicating relocation of said apparatus after a power interruption to said apparatus, and for enabling a predetermined output associated with said emergency alert function responsive to detecting said condition.

20 12. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) further enables a user to provide updated information associated with said emergency alert function responsive to detecting said condition.

25 13. The apparatus (20) of claim 12, wherein said updated information includes a FIPS location code.

14. The apparatus (20) of claim 12, wherein said updated information includes a type of emergency event.

30 15. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) detects said condition based on a duration of said power interruption.

16. The apparatus (20) of claim 15, wherein said processing means (27) detects said condition if said duration exceeds a predetermined time period.

17. The apparatus (20) of claim 15, wherein said processing means (27)
5 detects said duration based on a vertical blanking interval of a television signal.

18. The apparatus (20) of claim 15, wherein said processing means (27) detects said condition based on signal strength on a previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function.
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19. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) detects said condition based on signal strength on a first previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function.

20. The apparatus (20) of claim 19, wherein:
said first previously identified frequency channel has previously exhibited higher signal strength relative to a second previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function; and
said processing means (27) detects said condition if said second
20 previously identified frequency channel exhibits higher signal strength relative to said first previously identified frequency channel.

21. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
25 a tuner (22) operative to tune signals including emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function; and
a processor (27) operative to detect a condition indicating relocation of said television signal receiver (20) after a power interruption to said television signal receiver (20), and to enable a predetermined output associated with said emergency
30 alert function responsive to detecting said condition.

22. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 21, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to enable a user to provide updated information associated with said emergency alert function responsive to detecting said condition.

5 23. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said updated information includes a FIPS location code.

24. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said updated information includes a type of emergency event.

10 25. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 21, wherein said processor (27) detects said condition based on a duration of said power interruption.

15 26. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 25, wherein said processor (27) detects said condition if said duration exceeds a predetermined time period.

27. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 25, wherein said processor (27) detects said duration based on a vertical blanking interval of a television signal.

20 28. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 25, wherein said processor (27) detects said condition based on signal strength on a previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function.

25 29. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 21, wherein said processor (27) detects said condition based on signal strength on a first previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function.

30 30. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 29, wherein:
said first previously identified frequency channel has previously exhibited higher signal strength relative to a second previously identified frequency channel associated with said emergency alert function; and

said processor (27) detects said condition if said second previously identified frequency channel exhibits higher signal strength relative to said first previously identified frequency channel.